



BOROUGH
OF
MALMESBURY

1965

BOROUGH OF MALMESBURY.

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDED

31st. DECEMBER, 1965.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

C.L. Broomhead, T.D., M.D., B. Ch., D.P.H.
5, High Street, CHIP PENHAM. Tel: Chipp. 2821.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne and Chippenham and the two rural districts of Calne & Chippenham, and Malmesbury. Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

J. Stirling, Cert. R.S.A. (Scot)., Meat & Food Inspector's Cert). (to February, 1965).

J.R.M. Walker, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.
Diploma R.S.H. Meat & Other Foods.
(From 12 July, 1965)

The above Officers combined the duties with that of Borough Surveyor.

(c) SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

S.G.V. Williamson, Cert. R.I.P.H.H.

(d) PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The General Purposes Committee of the Council deals with all matters pertaining to Public Health.

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Malmesbury Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year ending 31st. December, 1965 in accordance with Regulation 15(5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Copies of the report are required by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food, and H.M. Inspector of Factories; a copy is also sent to the County Medical Officer of Health.

The health of the population in the Borough has been satisfactory during the year 1965. Apart from an outbreak of intestinal infection at the Grammar School, there was little infectious disease of importance.

There were 60 live births registered in the Borough during 1965, 19 less than during 1964. The birth rate therefore has dropped to 23.3 per 1000 of the population by comparison with the rate of 29.4 per 1000 of the population for 1964.

The Still Birth Rate and the Infant Mortality Rate are both lower this year, ie 32.2 and 16.6 per 1000 live birth respectively.

There was little change in the death rate this year (12.9 per 1000 of the population) compared with 12.6 for 1964.

More than half the deaths registered during 1965 were due to Cancer, Coronary Disease and Heart Disease collectively.

The report of Mr. Walker, the Council's Surveyor and Public Health Inspector gives detail of the action taken under the Public Health Acts, the Food & Drugs Act and Housing Act, 1957 and it is gratifying that progress has been made.

The Minister of Health has given his approval to the making of arrangements for the addition of fluorine to public water supplies, which are deficient in it naturally, to the level appropriate for the prevention of dental decay.

In the Minister's view, fluoridation is now an established well proven public health measure, which confers benefits to dental health greatly exceeding the cost of introducing it. He is convinced that it is completely safe.

Drinking water which has had its fluorine content raised to 1 p.p.m. has the same beneficial effect on teeth as water in which the same proportion of fluorine is present naturally. The effect of fluoridation has been extensively investigated throughout the world. Every allegation of harm has been thoroughly and carefully investigated, but no harmful effects from a level of 1 p.p.m. have been demonstrated whether one is young or old, healthy or sick.

Fluoridation will have little or no effect on the teeth of those who are already adult, when it is introduced. Children will benefit broadly according to the age at which they first regularly begin to consume fluoridated water.

I am indebted to Mr. C.D. Phillips, Engineer, North Wilts. Water Board for the following detail of the natural fluoride content of water supplied in the Board's area.

Chippenham.....	0.7 parts per million.
Malmesbury.....	0.6 parts per million.
Corsham	Less than 0.1 parts per million.
Calne	Less than 0.1 parts per million.

I am indebted to Mr. Walker, the Council's Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, Mr. Weston, the Clerk and the staff of the Council for their help during the year under review.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	227
Population	2,680.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1965 according to the Rate Book) . .	889
Rateable Value	£87,984
Sum represented by the Penny Rate	£350.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	32	22	54
Illegitimate	3	3	6
Total	<u>35</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>60</u>

Crude birth rate for the Borough.....	22.3
	per 1000 of the population.
Adjusted Birth Rate for the Borough.....	23.4
	per 1000 of the population.
Comparative Birth Rate for England & Wales.....	18.0
	per 1000 of the population.

Members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area are included in the population figure shown under the heading "General Statistics". To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from England & Wales as a whole, the crude birth rate and the crude death rate for the Borough are to be multiplied by an "Area comparability factor" given by the Registrar General. The above figures have been so corrected.

STILL BIRTHS.

Two still births were notified during the year under review as compared with three still births during 1964. The rate per 1000 total live and still births for 1965 is 32.2; the comparative rate for England & Wales is 15.7.

INFANT MORTALITY.

One male child, under the age of four weeks, died during the year. This death has also been classified in the table showing the causes of death included in this report. The Infant Mortality rate, per 1000 live births is 16.6; the comparative rate for England & Wales is 19.0.

DEATHS.

The following deaths were notified during 1965.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	24	18	42

Crude death rate for the Borough.....15.6
per 1000 of the population.
Adjusted death rate for the Borough.....12.9
per 1000 of the population.
Comparative death rate for England & Wales.....11.5
per 1000 of the population.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	-	2	2
Coronary disease, angina	9	6	15
Other heart disease	1	3	4
Other circulatory disease	-	1	1
Pneumonia	2	-	2
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	-	1
Nephritis & nephrosis	-	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	1	3
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	1	-	1
 TOTAL	 24	 18	 42

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

During the year ten cases of measles were notified and one case of Paratyphoid "B".

The case of paratyphoid was a married woman aged 37 years. Although a careful and detailed epidemiological investigation was carried out, no positive indication came to light as to the source of infection.

Control measures included restriction on employment and bacteriological surveillance of the patient and members of her family.

The case made an uneventful recovery, and no secondary cases occurred.

Suspected Outbreak of Food Poisoning at Malmesbury Grammar School.

Early notification was received on the 8th April from the Wiltshire Education Department that thirty children and one food handler were absent complaining of nausea and/or

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (Continued).

diarrhoea and vomiting; nausea and vomiting appeared to be the principal clinical features.

Investigation and control on the lines recommended in Ministry of Health Memo 188/Med, revised 1958, were put in hand immediately. These measures included bacteriological investigation of a selected number of the pupils and kitchen staff, and laboratory examination of a specimen of school meal issued on the previous day, 7th April.

By the 20th April, the Bath Public Health Laboratory had reported "no organisms of the food poisoning group isolated" in respect of specimen meal and faeces specimens sent in by pupils and staff.

In view of these negative results, it was decided, following consultation with the Principal School Medical Officer, that no further investigation be undertaken.

A possible explanation for this outbreak could have been a separate entity among a group of diseases of unknown origin commonly called "Gastric flu", or "winter vomiting disease", though its incidence is not confined to the winter months, nor is vomiting quite as prominent a symptom as nausea. Although food poisoning may be suspected, it can usually be excluded on circumstantial grounds as well as by the completely negative results of the laboratory examination of all specimens and samples. It is possible that a virus (or a group of viruses) was the cause of the outbreak.

Tuberculosis.

For the second year in succession, it is gratifying to report that no cases of tuberculosis came to light, nor were there any deaths due to this disease.

Mass Radiography Service.

The present policy is that regular fortnightly X-ray sessions be held in the larger centres of population throughout the South West Region. To some extent these sessions would replace the previous pattern of visits every two or three years, though visits to industry and special groups would continue on a three yearly basis.

It is hoped that it will be possible for a Mobile X-Ray Unit to visit Malmesbury in the very near future.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

The Wiltshire County Council, as a Local Health Authority, is responsible for the formation of schemes for the immunisation of children against certain infectious diseases. I am indebted to Dr. C.D.L. Lycett, County Medical Officer of Health for the following information:-

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisation.

<u>Year of Birth.</u>	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1956	1950	Under
						1960	1955	16
Primary imms completed during 1965.	Diph.	43	47	1	1	-	4	-
	Wh/c.	43	47	1	1	-	-	-
	Tet.	43	47	1	1	-	10	2
Reinf. injects. administered during 1965.	Diph.	-	17	29	6	2	34	-
	Wh/c.	-	12	17	4	-	5	-
	Tet.	-	17	30	6	2	55	6

Vaccination and Immunisation (Continued).

Vaccination.

The following children have been vaccinated and or revaccinated against smallpox during the year.

<u>Age Group.</u>	<u>Months.</u>				<u>Years.</u>			
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	(5-14)	15 and over
Vaccinations	1	3	3	5	36	7		2
Re-vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	4		6

Immunisation against Poliomyelitis.

<u>Age Group.</u>	3rd.	2nd.	3rd.inj	4th.	3 oral	2 oral	4th.ora	
	Quad Inj.	or	4th.Quad.inj.	doses	after	after	3	
				2 injs.inj or			2 injs.inj or	
1965	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-
1964	-	-	-	-	74	-	-	-
1963	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	1
1962	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
1961	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	1
1956-60	-	-	-	-	15	1	44	
1950-55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Others under 16	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	1
Other over 16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
TOTALS	-	-	-	-	142	1	57	

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1965.

Mr. J. Stirling. Public Health Inspector to the Borough since 1962, left to take up a position with Sandy U.D.C. in February, and I was appointed with effect from 12th. July. Thus for more than one-third of the year there was no qualified Public Health Inspector employed by the Council.

Routine sampling of milk and water supplies was kindly undertaken by members of the Malmesbury R.D.C. staff, and meat inspection by a local firm of veterinary surgeons. I should like to express my appreciation of the assistance afforded me by these gentlemen since taking up my appointment.

A backlog of both practical and administrative work had rapidly developed during the period when no public health inspector was present, and this had not been entirely eliminated by the year's end. It would appear that some re-organisation will be necessary to remove much of the burden of day to day routine office administration from the Borough Surveyor/Public Health Inspector to enable a greater proportion of his time to be spent on the more important aspects of public health work.

Much administrative detail that is essential to the department has previously not been carried out due to insufficient clerical assistance, and this should no longer be tolerated. Both the public health and surveying work have suffered from lack of proper control, and full time clerical assistance is necessary for a more efficient functioning of the combined department.

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

Water Supplies.

The water supply for the Borough is provided by the North Wilts. Water Board, and has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity throughout the year.

No. of samples taken.....15
No. bacteriologically satisfactory.....15

Information was given to the Council that water from two sources was mixed to supply the Borough, and that the resultant natural fluorine content was 0.35 p.p.m. After consideration of the various publications issued by the Ministry and hearing the case for fluoridation put by the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspector, it was resolved not to recommend to the Water Board that the fluorine content of the Borough water supply be made up to 1 p.p.m. as the Council were of the opinion that fluorine could be more economically administered in some other form to those who would benefit.

The water is not plumbo-solvent.

It is estimated that some 30 houses are served by an external standpipe and have no water supply available within the dwelling.

	<u>Inhabited</u> <u>Houses.</u>	<u>Persons.</u>
No. December 1965	872	2,780
No. with internal W/S	342	2,690
No. served by standpipes	30	90.

These houses are for the most part old cottage type property occupied by elderly persons.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The district is sewered by an old system which has been connected to a new ring sewer round the town, all sewage being pumped to the works. These sewage works, opened in 1963, continue to operate at a very satisfactory level.

The Borough Council have a small estate of aluminium bungalows situated in the Rural District, these dwellings being sewer to a small disposal plant that has fallen into a state of severe disrepair. At the end of the year negotiations were in progress with the management of an adjacent factory to have a combined arrangement for pumping sewage to the main works, thus eliminating the two existing units.

Public Health Act, 1936; Part 9.

There are no registered common lodging houses in the district.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

There are now no dealers or distributors of raw milk in the Borough, the two roundsmen having changed to heat-treated supplies obtained from main dairies outside the district. Pasteurised or sterilised pre-packed milk is delivered to the four registered distributors daily.

During the year 16 samples of milk were taken, 15 of which proved satisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample was of raw milk taken early in the year, which failed the methylene blue test.

There are no liquid egg pasteurisation plants within the Borough.

Housing Act, 1957.

There are many old properties in the Borough without modern facilities, and the majority of these are in such a condition as to warrant action under Section 16 of the Act. Little progress in this sphere has been achieved in the past and the rate at which these unfit properties may be suitably dealt with is governed by the availability of alternative accommoda-

By December four premises had been closed, one by closing order and three by undertakings accepted from the owner. A further six dwellings were being dealt with, and it is anticipated that this number will be substantially increased during 1966.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

Housing & House Purchase Act, 1959.

There were eight grants approved during the year for improvement or conversion of properties in the Borough.

Standard Grants.....	2
Discretionary Grants.....	6

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

There are approximately 44 premises retailing food in one form or another, and in the six months of July to December, 18 of these were inspected. The conditions prevailing in the majority of cases were reasonable, but in four instances the general standard left much to be desired. Letters have been sent to the persons concerned, and follow-up visits arranged to ensure that necessary works are being put in hand.

Food Premises

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Inspected.</u>
Grocers	6	4
Greengrocers	2	-
Butchers	5	5
Cafes	3	2
Wet Fish Shops	2	1
Fried Fish Shops	2	1
Cake & Bread Shops	3	2
Hotels serving meals	6	1
Public Houses	5	1
Small general shops	10	1
	<u>44</u>	<u>18</u>

There was one premises in which neither Sections 16 nor 19 of these Regulations were complied with, and this has since been remedied.

These sections applied to all premises inspected, and were satisfactory in this respect in the majority of cases.

Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

A record of 100% meat inspection was maintained at the slaughterhouse during the year. This was carried out by the local veterinary surgeons until September, when an arrangement was agreed whereby inspection was divided:

Monday -Wednesday	by Public Health Inspector.
Thursday-Sunday	by Veterinary Surgeons.

This has so far worked very well, and will I hope continue to do so. Frequent informal meetings are held to ensure a uniform standard of judgement and discuss any cases of interest.

Animals Inspected 1965.

<u>Beasts</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
2,257	72	3,392	5,851

No details are available as to condemnations, but ten cases of cysticercus bovis were found, all in the period September-December. No instances of bovine tuberculosis were found.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

During the year a start was made on the inspection of premises under this Act, though no visits were made prior to July. Of the ten premises inspected none was found that complied fully with all regulations, the most common faults being failure to provide a thermometer and a satisfactory first aid box.

Only three premises were inspected during the last quarter, and therefore no general statement of lighting conditions, as requested by the Ministry, may be fairly made. No light-meter readings of either natural or artificial levels of illuminations were taken.

Of the premises so far inspected the standards of illumination appear to be generally sufficient, and no instances of excessive glare have been remarked.

Advice of a general nature has been given in one or two cases, where it was thought the existing lighting was minimal but in no instances have conditions been so poor as to warrant further action.

No accidents in premises covered by the Act were reported during the year.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

There is one site in the Borough, Licensed for twelve caravans, which was found on inspection to be far from satisfactory. The existing licence conditions, which did not cover all items in the model standards, were not satisfactorily complied with, and in December the site owners appeared before a committee and undertook to comply in full with the licence by March, 1966. The original licence was also amended to include all provisions contained in the Ministry's standards, and the site should be satisfactory by July, 1966.

Factories Act, 1961.

I summarise below the details requested in Circular 1/66.

1. - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspns.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	17	4	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	17	4	-	-

2.- Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned on two, three or more "cases".

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.	
	Found	Remedied	Referred	To HM Inspr.	By HM Inspr.
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL:-</u>	1	1	-	-	-

There are no outworkers registered in this district.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1951.

Very little rodent control work was undertaken in the Borough during the year, but it is hoped that during 1966 a regular scheme of sewer baiting for rodents may be operated.

59 cases of infestation of rats or mice were reported, and all these were satisfactorily dealt with.

Premises	<u>Rats</u>		<u>Mice.</u>	
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor.
Domestic	-	40	-	15
Commercial	-	3	-	-
Industrial	-	1	-	-

This item concludes my section of this annual report.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

John R.C. Walker,

Public Health Inspector.

